

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 01892 172100Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 INR-07 INRE-00 SSO-00
/021 W

-----025082 172125Z /63

O 172015Z NOV 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9714

USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1892

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, IS, EG, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR LEWIS' REMARKS TO PRESS ON SADAT VISIT

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS' REMARKS
TO PRESS FOLLOWING CODEL WRIGHT MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN, NOVEMBER 17, 1977:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. (CONCERNS AMBASSADOR LEWIS' ROLE IN ARRANGING VISIT.)

A. OH, I'M JUST A POSTMAN.

Q. WHEN DID YOU GET THE REPLY FROM MR. SADAT?

A. DURING THE MEETING.

Q. DURING THIS MEETING THIS EVENING?

A. YES.

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Q. HOW WAS IT DELIVERED?

A. BY TELEGRAM FROM CAIRO.

Q. TO?

A. TO OUR CONSUL GENERAL HERE AND THEY BROUGHT IT OVER TO ME WHILE THE MEETING WAS GOING ON.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS OTHER THAN THE DATE OF ARRIVAL?

A. NO. I THINK ALL THE QUESTIONS ABOUT DETAILS OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OR THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT.

Q. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SERVING AS A POSTMAN?

A. O, I LIKE BEING A POSTMAN -- FOR SUCH KINDS OF MESSAGES -- HAPPY MESSAGES.

Q. HAS THE U.S. PLAYED A ROLE IN WORKING OUT AN AGENDA?

A. NO.

Q. IS THERE AN AGENDA?

A. I DON'T KNOW. (ASKS EVRON) IS THERE AN AGENDA?

A. (EVRON) THEY'RE ASKING YOU, NOT ME.

A. (AMB) WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE AGENDA OR THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TALKS. ALL WE'RE DOING IS FACILITATING COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF PRESIDENT SADAT RECEIVED THE INVITATION? DID HE ANSWER ACTUALLY BEFORE HE RECEIVED THE OFFICIAL INVITATION?

A. HE RECEIVED IT THIS AFTERNOON FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS.

Q. DID HE KNOW THE CONTENTS BEFORE HE RECEIVED THE ACTUAL LETTER?

A. I THINK YOU SHOULD ASK THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THAT QUESTION.

Q. HAVE YOU MADE ANY SUGGESTIONS OF YOUR OWN, ANY PROPOSALS AS TO THE AGENDA?

A. NO.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN DAILY CONTACT BOTH WITH PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND WITH WASHINGTON ABOUT THIS?

A. O YES, DAILY. AT LEAST DAILY.

Q. WAS THERE ANY PREVIOUS NOTICE OF THE DATE OF THE COMING OF PRESIDENT SADAT?

A. O, I'M SURE THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MUST HAVE KNOWN AHEAD OF TIME.

Q. NO, BUT HERE IN ISRAEL?

A. I THINK ALL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DETAILS OF THE EXCHANGES OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED.

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Q. IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT ASIDE FROM YOUR ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY IN THIS, THAT THE AMERICANS AND THE ROMANIANS WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN SETTING UP THE MEETING. CAN YOU COMMENT AT ALL ON THAT?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE PROPOSAL WAS PRESIDENT SADAT'S AND THE COUNTER-PROPOSAL WAS PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S. ALL WE'VE DONE IS FACILITATE THE EXCHANGES. I DON'T KNOW WHAT STIMULATED PRESIDENT SADAT AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT STIMULATED PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, EXCEPT, OF COURSE, HE'S OFTEN SAID HE'D WELCOME ANY MEETINGS OF THIS KIND.

Q. DID THE IMMINENCE OF THE VISIT -- COMING JUST THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, SURPRISE YOU?

A. YES. DIDN'T IT SURPRISE YOU? I THINK IT SURPRISED ALL OF US - HAPPILY.

Q. IS THERE ANY TRUTH THAT AMERICAN SECURITY SERVICES WILL BE OFFERING THEIR (GARBLE)?

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF. CERTAINLY, IF WE'RE ASKED TO ASSIST, WE WILL CONSIDER ANY REQUESTS, BUT WE HAVE HAD NO SUCH REQUESTS.

Q. WHAT ABOUT MR. KISSINGER'S LIMOUSINE? WILL THAT BE MADE AVAILABLE?

A. (LAUGHS) NOT AS FAR AS I KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS NOW. THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.
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PRESS. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PRESS CONFERENCES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770426-1103
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771148/aaaaboxo.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 552875
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR LEWIS' REMARKS TO PRESS ON SADAT VISIT FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR LEWIS' REMARKS TO PRESS FOLLOWING CODEL WRIGHT MEETING WITH PRIME
TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, SOPN, IS, EG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (LEWIS, SAMUEL W)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
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